



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

July 5, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MARYVALE,
INCORPORATED - MARYVALE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Maryvale Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Maryvale, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Maryvale Group Home is an 85-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Maryvale Group Home was providing services for fifty-nine DCFS children, eight Riverside County children, seven San Bernardino children, three Kern County children, two Orange County children and one Tulare County child.

Maryvale Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications and ensure that all children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Sister Betty Marie Dunkel, Executive Director, Maryvale Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Maryvale Group Home
7600 East Graves Avenue
Rosemead, California
Phone: (626) 280-6510
License Number: 191500468
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Maryvale Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The grounds are clean and adequately landscaped.

Children reside in six separate units: St. Cecelia, St. Catherine, St. Maria Goretti, St. Christopher, St. Agnes and Seton Cottage based on the child's age and individual needs. The interior of each unit is well maintained. The common quarters of the units are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in each unit. The Agency provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Six

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Six

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Six

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, one child does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that she is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication. However, three children report that they are not aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

1. Maryvale management:

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**
- b. Ensure that all children are aware of their right to refuse medication.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Six

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. Children also report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding.

Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Six

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



June 5, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Department of Auditor-Controller
500 W. temple St., Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor

Dear Ms Rhue:

The following is Maryvale's response to the recent group home monitoring process conducted by your office. Specifically, I am providing substantial documentation to address the single section that contained recommendations that were made at the time of the exit conference and contained in the report that was subsequently provided to Maryvale.

In reference to the report, there were 7 sections addressed. There were no recommendations for 6 of these sections. In Section V: Psychotropic Medication, there were two recommendations made. The following represents our response to these issues.

Under Section V it was recommended that "Maryvale management maintain current court authorizations for the children taking psychotropic medication." Maryvale has maintained a clear and comprehensive policy that strictly adheres to all requirements established by the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Juvenile Division for foster care youth who are prescribed psychotropic medication. Attached please find Maryvale's Psychotropic Medication Authorization Protocol. During the review, it was determined that one child had an expired court authorization form. The renewal form indicating the request for continued treatment by the attending psychiatrist, utilizing the same medication type and dosage, was presented to the auditor and it only required that it be faxed and approved by the Court. This issue was resolved immediately by faxing the form and obtaining the required court approval (see attached court authorization form). During the exit conference, the auditors commended Maryvale for having very comprehensive Medication Support Services.

Also noted under this section was a recommendation that "Maryvale management ensure that all children are aware of their right to refuse medication." Maryvale is committed to

ensuring that every child is protected and afforded her personal rights as mandated under the Foster Care Youth Personal Rights. In addition, as a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Contract Provider, Maryvale adheres to additional regulations that pertain to informed consent issues including the prescribing of psychotropic medication. Every child who is evaluated by a Maryvale Psychiatrist is, from the initial contact and throughout the entire treatment episode, clearly informed of her right to refuse medication consistent with all laws, regulations and quality standards of clinical practice. This was verified very clearly by the auditor during the review when we presented the required Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Outpatient Medication Review Form that is completed upon evaluation by the psychiatrist and that is signed by both the child and psychiatrist (see attached). In addition, upon admission to Maryvale, every child and her appropriate representative is presented with and signs the "Personal Rights - Community Care Facilities and Residential Care facilities for the Elderly" form (see attached).

Although Maryvale follows the required protocols established by Los Angeles County for psychotropic medication informed consent, and documentation that supports this was presented to the auditor for each child reviewed, it was the auditor's finding that during an interview with three of our children, they were not aware of their right to refuse medications. Maryvale has, as a result, reminded all relevant staff of the requirement. Clearly every effort is made to ensure that our children are informed of their rights. Maryvale will continue to follow all existing protocols to this end.

I am sure you were made aware that at the time of this review the Civil Grand Jury was present to observe the process. They also commended Maryvale for having an outstanding residential treatment facility, highlighting the comprehensive care and services provided to the children as well as the overall quality of our facility.

If you have any questions or need further clarification please contact my office at (626) 280-6510.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Betty Marie Dunkel, W.C.".

Sister Betty Marie Dunkel
Executive Director
Maryvale